

Appl. No. 10/058,523

Amndt. dated December 18, 2003

Reply to Office action of October 16, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for measuring gaps and hollow spaces in motor vehicle body construction, the method which comprises:

introducing a filler element into one of a gap and a hollow space in a motor vehicle body, the one of the gap and the hollow space having a given dimension, the filler element being an element selected from the group consisting of a compressible sealing strip, an elastomeric filler element, a plastomeric filler element, an expansion element, and a dimensionally unstable body; and

providing a probe of an ultrasonic testing unit such that the filler element encloses the probe; and

measuring the given dimension of the one of the gap and the hollow space by using ~~an~~ the ultrasonic testing unit ~~coupled to the filler element.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises:

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using, as the filler element, [[a]] the compressible sealing strip; and

performing the step of providing the probe of the ultrasonic testing unit such that the filler element encloses the probe by inserting [[a]] the probe of the ultrasonic testing unit into the compressible sealing strip.

Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises performing the measuring step by using a measurement process as is used for a medical, intravascular ultrasonic measurement.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 3, which comprises evaluating a measurement, resulting from the measuring step, with a given resolution by using a signal processing step.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 1, which comprises determining dimensions of the one of the gap and the hollow space.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A device for measuring gaps and hollow spaces in motor vehicle body construction, comprising:

an ultrasonic testing unit having an ultrasonic probe;

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a filler element configured to be introduced in one of a gap and a hollow space in a motor vehicle body, the one of the gap and the hollow space having a given dimension to be measured, said filler element enclosing said ultrasonic probe, and said filler element being an element selected from the group consisting of a compressible sealing strip, an elastomeric filler element, a plastomeric filler element, an expansion element, and a dimensionally unstable body; and

said ultrasonic testing unit being configured to measure the given dimension of the one of the gap and the hollow space.

Claim 7 (original): The device according to claim 6, wherein said ultrasonic probe has a rod-shaped tip.

Claim 8-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): The device according to claim [[10]] 6, wherein said dimensionally unstable body is a balloon element filled with a material selected from the group consisting of a liquid material and a paste material.

Claim 12 (canceled).

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